

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

SECURITIES INVESTOR PROTECTION
CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERNARD L. MADOFF INVESTMENT
SECURITIES LLC,

Defendant.

In re:

BERNARD L. MADOFF,

Debtor.

Adv. Pro. No. 08-1789 (SMB)

SIPA Liquidation

(Substantively Consolidated)

**APPLICATION OF GRAF & PITKOWITZ RECHTSÄNWALTE GMBH AS SPECIAL
COUNSEL TO THE TRUSTEE FOR ALLOWANCE OF
INTERIM COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RENDERED AND
REIMBURSEMENT OF ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES
INCURRED FROM APRIL 1, 2016 THROUGH JULY 31, 2016**

Ferdinand Graf, together with other members and associates at the law firm of Graf & Pitkowitz Rechtsanwälte GmbH (“Graf & Pitkowitz”), special counsel for Irving H. Picard (the “Trustee”), Trustee for the liquidation of the business of Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC (“BLMIS” or “Debtor”) under the Securities Investor Protection Act of 1970, 15 U.S.C. §§ 78aaa *et seq.* (“SIPA”), and Bernard L. Madoff, submits this Application for Interim Allowance of Fees and Reimbursement of Expenses (the “Application”) for compensation of legal fees in the amount of \$20,166.56 (of which 20% is to be deferred through the conclusion of the liquidation period) and reimbursement of expenses in the amount of \$59.23 for the period from April 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016 (the “Compensation Period”).

I. BACKGROUND

1. On December 15, 2008, Judge Stanton of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, upon application filed on the same date by the Securities Investor Protection Corporation (“SIPC”), entered an order calling for the liquidation of the business of the Debtor in accordance with SIPA and appointing the Trustee as the trustee for the liquidation of the Debtor’s business.

2. The Debtor’s liquidation proceeding was removed to this Court pursuant to SIPA § 78eee(b)(4), and, to the extent consistent with the provisions of SIPA, is being conducted as though it were a case under chapters 1, 3, and 5 and subchapters I and II of chapter 7 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”) pursuant to SIPA § 78fff(b).

3. Beginning on February 1, 2011, Graf & Pitkowitz has served as special counsel for the Trustee.

4. On March 14, 2011, this Court entered an order approving the Trustee’s motion for authority to retain Graf & Pitkowitz *nunc pro tunc* as of February 1, 2011 as special counsel to the Trustee in all matters pertaining to Austrian law or Austrian legal proceedings.

5. The Trustee’s motion to retain Graf & Pitkowitz established a fee arrangement pursuant to which Graf & Pitkowitz agreed to a fee reduction in the amount of 10% as well as an additional holdback of fees in the amount of 20%.

II. SERVICES RENDERED BY GRAF & PITKOWITZ

6. The legal services performed on behalf of the Trustee during the time period covered by this Application are as follows:

7. Graf & Pitkowitz advised the Trustee regarding various issues of Austrian law.

8. Graf & Pitkowitz also monitored Madoff-related Austrian proceedings and advised the Trustee regarding the same.

III. COMPENSATION REQUESTED

9. The Application demonstrates how Graf & Pitkowitz has both added value to the Debtor's estate and has advanced the Debtor's SIPA liquidation proceeding.

10. Graf & Pitkowitz has been mindful of the need to avoid undue legal fees in this case and has taken all reasonable steps to provide cost-effective representation while rendering services with the highest degree of skill and professionalism. To that end, Graf & Pitkowitz endeavored to eliminate duplication of efforts by giving responsibility for the day-to-day conduct of the case to Ferdinand Graf and Nikolaus Pitkowitz, involving others only when necessary.

11. From April 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016, Graf & Pitkowitz provided a total of 40.4 hours of legal services to the Trustee in this case. Prior to the 10% discount, the total amount of fees incurred in this time period was \$22,407.29 and the total blended rate for professional services was \$554.64/hour. After the 10% discount, the total amount of fees incurred is \$20,166.56 and the total blended rate is \$499.17/hour. Graf & Pitkowitz has agreed to a further holdback of 20% of its fees in the amount of \$4,033.31 resulting in the present request for compensation in the amount of \$16,133.25.

12. A breakdown of the total number of hours performed by each Graf & Pitkowitz timekeeper is provided on **Exhibit A** annexed hereto.

13. Graf & Pitkowitz seeks reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in connection with its representation of the Trustee during the Compensation Period in the amount of \$59.23. An itemized list of these expenses is detailed on **Exhibit B** attached hereto.

IV. GENERAL MATTERS

14. All of the professional services for which compensation is requested herein were performed by Graf & Pitkowitz for and on behalf of the Trustee and not on behalf of any other person or entity.

15. No agreement or understanding exists between Graf & Pitkowitz and any other person for sharing compensation received in connection with this case nor has any other person or entity agreed to provide Graf & Pitkowitz with compensation for the legal services described herein.

16. Section 78eee(b)(5)(A) of SIPA provides in pertinent part that, upon appropriate application and after a hearing, “[t]he court shall grant reasonable compensation for services rendered and reimbursement for proper costs and expenses incurred . . . by a trustee, and by the attorney for such a trustee.” Section 78eee(b)(5)(C) of SIPA specifically establishes SIPC’s role in connection with applications for compensation and the consideration the Court should give to SIPC’s recommendation concerning fees. That section provides as follows:

In any case in which such allowances are to be paid by SIPC without reasonable expectation of recoupment thereof as provided in this chapter and there is no difference between the amounts requested and the amounts recommended by SIPC, the court shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC. In determining the amount of allowances in all other cases, the court shall give due consideration to the nature, extent, and value of the services rendered, and shall place considerable reliance on the recommendation of SIPC.

SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(C).

17. To the extent the general estate is insufficient to pay such allowances as an expense of administration, SIPA § 78eee(b)(5)(E) requires SIPC to advance the funds necessary to pay the compensation of Graf & Pitkowitz (*see* SIPA § 78fff-3(b)(2)).

18. The Trustee has determined, at this time, that he has no reasonable expectation that the general estate will be sufficient to make a distribution to general creditors or pay administrative expenses. SIPC has advised the Trustee that it concurs with this determination. Accordingly, any fees and expenses allowed by this Court will be paid from advances by SIPC without any reasonable expectation by SIPC of recoupment thereof.

19. Therefore, with respect to this Application, Graf & Pitkowitz requests that, consistent with section 78eee(b)(5)(C) of SIPA, the Court “shall award the amounts recommended by SIPC.” *See In re Bell & Beckwith*, 112 B.R. 876 (Bankr. N.D. Ohio 1990). Graf & Pitkowitz expects that SIPC’s recommendation shall be filed with this Court separately.

WHEREFORE, Graf & Pitkowitz respectfully requests that this Court enter an Order:

- a. Granting this Application; and
- b. Allowing and awarding \$20,166.56, of which \$16,133.25 is to be paid currently and \$4,033.31, is to be held back through the conclusion of the liquidation period or until further order of the Court, as an interim payment for professional services rendered by Graf & Pitkowitz to the Trustee from April 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016; and
- c. Allowing payment to Graf & Pitkowitz in the amount of \$59.23 for reimbursement of expenses incurred by Graf & Pitkowitz from April 1, 2016 through July 31, 2016; and
- d. Granting Graf & Pitkowitz such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: November 18 , 2016

GRAF & PITKOWITZ RECHTSÄNWALTE
GMBH

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EXHIBIT A

**SUMMARY OF INTERIM FEE APPLICATION
OF GRAF & PITKOWITZ FOR SERVICES RENDERED
FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1, 2016 THROUGH JULY 31, 2016**

| NAME | <u>HOURLY RATE</u> | <u>TOTAL HOURS BILLED</u> | <u>TOTAL COMPENSATION</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Ronald Schon | \$616.80 | 5.5 | \$3,392.40 |
| Nikolaus Pitkowitz | \$615.85 | 23.4 | \$14,410.89 |
| Ferdinand Graf | \$613.57 | 0.8 | \$490.86 |
| Marija Krizanac | \$436.16 | 7.4 | \$3,227.58 |
| Agnieszka Sirokska | \$268.35 | 3.3 | \$885.56 |
| | | | |
| Total | \$554.64 | 40.4 | \$22,407.29 |
| Total Minus 10% Discount | \$499.17 | | \$20,166.56 |
| Total Net 20% Holdback | | | \$16,133.25 |

EXHIBIT B

EXPENSE SUMMARY OF GRAF & PITKOWITZ
FOR THE INTERIM PERIOD
OF APRIL 1, 2016 THROUGH JULY 31, 2016

| EXPENSES | AMOUNTS |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Media Monitoring | \$59.23 |
| Total Expenses Requested: | \$59.23 |